



Registered charity number: 1200992

Terms of Reference for External Evaluation

Background

[CHASE Africa](#) is a UK registered charity, number 1200992¹. It was founded in 2000 and was originally called The Rift Valley Tree Trust (RVTT). Its initial objective was to encourage tree-planting initiatives around the shrinking Mau Forest in Kenya. Whilst undertaking these projects, CHASE Africa's founder realised that many of the women living in the region were trapped in poverty. Limited knowledge about their reproductive and wider health, alongside barriers to accessing health services, including any form of modern contraception meant the women had no way to space their pregnancies or choose how many children to have. Many had limited ante-natal or post-natal care. It became obvious that to help families escape poverty, and for women and girls to be able to fulfil their potential, it was necessary to improve access to maternal, reproductive and child health services and address a huge, unmet need for family planning.

In 2012, the RVTT changed its name to CHASE Africa (Community Health and Sustainable Environment), to reflect a shift in direction. CHASE Africa began to support primary healthcare and family planning programmes in remote, rural areas, initially supporting one partner, Communities Health Africa Trust (CHAT). Over the past ten years, CHASE Africa has grown substantially. It currently works with twelve partners (ten in Kenya and two in Uganda), several of whom it has supported to set up community health programmes, alongside their other work. Through its partners, it has delivered over 1 million basic health care services and 480 000 family planning (FP) services. All the while, CHASE Africa has not lost its original environmental focus. Its programmes take place in rural areas, where many people depend on depleting natural resources for their livelihoods, where ecosystems are fragile, and biodiversity is under threat.

What issue is CHASE Africa seeking to address?

CHASE Africa seeks to empower women and girls by improving access to health services in rural communities and by addressing the high unmet need for family planning. In so doing it also aims to improve maternal and child outcomes, especially in communities that have been marginalised and underserved.

CHASE Africa works in communities where there remain considerable barriers to girls and women realising their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and the unmet demand for modern contraceptives leads to high numbers of unplanned pregnancies, unsafe abortions and HIV infections.

¹ In November 2022, the UK Charity Commission approved the registration of CHASE Africa CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). This is a change in the charitable status of CHASE Africa from an unincorporated trust (charity number 1082958) to a CIO. The CIO came into effect on the 1st January 2023. The governance and management structures are the same for both charities.

In parallel, rates of preventable maternal deaths are high due to many women having closely spaced pregnancies without appropriate ante-natal and post-natal support, or access to facilities or trained staff for deliveries.

The situation is particularly acute for adolescents and youth in East Africa, who experience some of the highest rates of teenage pregnancies in the world. In addition, girls who are not able to realise their sexual and reproductive health and rights are at risk of sexually transmitted infections (most notably HIV) and gender-based violence (including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)), and are often forced to drop out of school, due to early marriage and pregnancy. In the last two years, CHASE Africa has increased the activities it supports that are aimed at reaching adolescents and youth.

CHASE Africa works in rural areas where communities' lives and livelihoods are heavily dependent on natural resources and where access to services is poor. It focuses on "last mile" delivery, addressing the core pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure that no-one is left behind.

CHASE Africa also supports some partners to undertake integrated programmes at community level, which includes activities to reduce degradation of natural resources, improve food security, and build resilience to climate change, alongside their health programmes. In some cases, this is mainly focussed on education and information provision. With other partners, CHASE Africa only supports the partner's health programmes, but it has selected partners that are also undertaking environmental or conservation activities and are aiming to improve natural resource management and environmental health.

CHASE Africa's Approach

CHASE Africa supports locally based organisations in Kenya and Uganda, who work with their local communities on a variety of activities. They include small community-based organisations (CBOs), development non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and charitable trusts. Whilst undertaking this work, CHASE Africa has developed substantial knowledge on how to deliver community health and family planning programmes effectively.

Alongside funding, it has also provided capacity building support to all its local partners. The CHASE Africa partner network has become a powerful and valuable forum for sharing best practices and experience. CHASE Africa facilitates this network. It supports exchange visits between partners, organises webinars (on topics requested by partner organisations) and hosts an annual CHASE Africa Partner Network Conference, where knowledge exchange and learning takes place – both across the network and by bringing in relevant external experts and practitioners to speak.

Several of CHASE Africa's local partners are conservation organisations. This originally came about through partnership with Mount Kenya Trust on tree-planting projects, and then supporting them to start a community health project, as they saw a need amongst the communities they were working with. Since then, CHASE Africa has supported six other conservation organisations to start-up and run a community health programme, all of which include sexual and reproductive health and improving access to family planning. This experience has demonstrated that locally based conservation organisations, who are already working, and have developed trusted relationships, with their local communities, are uniquely placed to provide information, raise awareness, mobilise communities and facilitate service delivery by their local Ministry of Health.

CHASE Africa Results Framework

The CHASE Africa results framework is as follows:

Our **vision** is healthy, empowered communities living sustainably in their natural environment.

Our **mission** is to support local partner organisations, in Africa, that enable access to family planning, healthcare and rights, while protecting the environment and building resilience to climate change.

- **Objective 1: Address SRHR and unmet need for family planning:** All CHASE Africa partners run community health programmes with a particular focus on reproductive, maternal, neo-natal, child and adolescent health. They also provide health information and raise awareness at a wide range of community gatherings and events, including community dialogues and door-to-door visits by Community Health Workers. They use their skills in community engagement, education, and mobilisation to promote discussion about gender and social norms, as well as presenting options and facilitating access to services.
- **Objective 2: Embed SRHR into broader programming:** CHASE Africa has developed particular expertise in integrating community health programmes with a range of other environmentally focussed activities, such as improving natural resource management and providing alternative livelihood training. CHASE also supports locally-based, community-focused conservation organisations to start and run community health projects.
- **Objective 3: Showcase and advocate for SRHR:** In addition to direct partner support, CHASE Africa aims to build and disseminate evidence of the impact of its approaches and models, to share its learning and experience across its own growing partner network and also more widely with other implementing organisations, funders and policy makers.

In parallel to these objectives, we have a cross-cutting objective to strengthen the capacity of all the local partners that we are supporting.

Evaluation purpose, audience, and objectives

CHASE Africa has grown steadily for the past 10 years and has gone through a process of organisational development in the last few years. Its original director (who was working on a pro-bonus basis) retired after 10 years in June 2022. The charity changed its structure from an unincorporated trust to a CIO, and has developed a new strategic plan. A review of all CHASE Africa's Monitoring and Evaluation systems took place in 2021/2022, and a new M&E Framework and Plan was developed, introducing Impact Level indicators for the first time.

All its local partners are now working on three-year plans and have recently conducted baselines studies. One of the feedbacks from the M&E Review is that there has been a lot of monitoring but little evaluation of its work. Although impact level data is not yet available, it seemed a good time to undertake an external review of CHASE Africa's approach, in order to learn lessons that can feed into future plans and increase CHASE Africa's impact going forward.

The main audiences for the evaluation are CHASE Africa, our implementing partners and our resource providers, though it is hoped that the evaluation findings will also be of interest to other key stakeholders. Ultimately, learnings could be shared with relevant networks to add to strengthening of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the region.

The specific intended uses of the evaluation are to provide a review of CHASE Africa's impact, role and approach to date and to provide lessons and feedback that can be incorporated into CHASE Africa's future approach and strategy. It will also review the appropriateness of the performance questions

and indicators that CHASE Africa has identified for future monitoring and more impact focused evaluation.

The objectives of the evaluation are:

1. To review the impact of CHASE Africa to date, in terms of its overall approach of:
 - a. raising awareness and understanding of SRHR through a range of information and awareness raising activities;
 - b. addressing the unmet need for family planning (taking a rights-based approach) by improving access to health services;
 - c. bringing wider reproductive, maternal, child and adolescent health benefits to the communities being reached;
 - d. integrating community health programmes with other activities;
 - e. undertaking some environmental activities at community level, that can be integrated with health activities.
2. To review the way that CHASE Africa works through local partners and the support that it has offered to those local implementing partners.
3. To review the way local partner organisations have integrated the community health activities with their other programmes, and the effectiveness of this integration.

Evaluation methods and questions

Evaluation methods and a detailed timeline need to be proposed by applicants for this assignment. However, it is expected that this will be a participatory evaluation drawing on the input of diverse stakeholders including CHASE Africa's partners, local Ministry of Health staff at County and Sub-County level, and at local facilities, CHWs, community leaders, project participants.

The evaluation will involve desk work, interviews by zoom/MS Teams, and in-person meetings/interviews with a selection of CHASE Africa's partners, and field trips, including meetings with project participants and local stakeholders.

The questions for each objective include:

- 1. To review the impact of CHASE Africa to date, in terms of its overall approach**
 - What difference, if any, have the projects, supported by CHASE Africa, made?
 - What factors have helped and/or hindered the achievement of the outcomes?
 - What do beneficiaries think about the work that is supported by CHASE Africa?
 - How do local Ministry of Health (and other health providers), (and other government Ministries as appropriate) view the role of CHASE Africa's partners, and CHASE Africa?
 - Have there been any unintended outcomes? Any unintended harm?
 - Has CHASE Africa chosen to work in areas where there is a significant level of need?
 - Does CHASE Africa deliver value for money? Has funders' money been well spent?
 - How sustainable are results? What measures, if any, have been put in place to promote sustainability?
- 2. To review the way that CHASE Africa works through local partners and the support that it has offered to those local implementing partners**
 - To review its relationship with its local implementing partners, and the value of the support that it has provided to these local partner organisations and the communities that they serve (financial support, technical support, capacity building support and facilitating learning across the CHASE Africa partner network).

- To review the value of the CHASE Africa partner network and the benefits being part of it brings to partners.
- To review the different approaches implementing partners have taken to reaching communities, and the ways they have adapted the “CHASE Africa model” to their local circumstances.
- To give feedback on what CHASE Africa could do differently in the way that it provides support to its local partners?

3. To review the way local partner organisations have integrated the community health activities with their other programmes, and the effectiveness of this integration.

- How have partners integrated SRH with other health programmes?
- How have partners integrated health with environmental activities at community level
- How have partners integrated health with other livelihoods, Natural Resource Management (NRM) and conservation activities
- What have been the benefits of taking such an integrated approach – to both health outcomes, and those of other programmes?

(The weighting of these objectives, in terms of time spent on them will be discussed with the consultant.)

In conducting the evaluation, attention will be paid to CHASE Africa’s performance questions that have been identified to evaluate impact over the next 3 years:

PQ I1: Are communities, particularly women and girls, realising their SRHR and accessing Family Planning and other health services?

a. What, if any, has been the contribution of CHASE Africa?

- PQ O1a: To what extent has CHASE Africa improved and expanded access to SRHR-related information and services, and with what impact?
- PQ O1b: To what extent has CHASE Africa improved and expanded access to primary health care, and with what impact?

PQ I2: Are the communities living in harmony with their natural environment?

b. What, if any, has been the contribution of CHASE Africa?

- PQ O2a: To what extent has CHASE Africa built resilience at community level, and with what impact, especially relating to women and girls?
- PQ O2b: To what extent has CHASE Africa reduced and mitigated negative environmental impact and improved natural resource management, and with what impact?

PQ O3: To what extent has the integrated programming approach been promoted by CHASE Africa and adopted by other actors through CHASE Africa’s influencing work?

PQ IO: To what extent and in what ways has CHASE Africa helped to strengthen the capacity of its CBO/NGO partners?

Additional questions will also be considered in the evaluation. These will be proposed by the consultant(s) and/or generated by stakeholders (e.g. CHASE Africa Secretariat, Partners) at an early stage in the process.

Assignment schedule

The principal components of the evaluation assignment are: preparation and planning, data collection, analysis, and report. These components include:

Activity	Includes:
Preparation and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background reading• Preparing evaluation tools to be used in interviews / discussions and fieldwork• Development of detailed implementation plan for agreement with CHASE Africa• Liaison and planning with CHASE Africa, including for any fieldwork / travel
Data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Desk review of partner annual proposals and reports.• Evaluation interviews / discussions with all CHASE Africa partners to gather information on projects, and relationship with CHASE Africa.• Evaluation interviews / discussions with CHASE Africa and other key stakeholders (including funders and Ministry of Health) at international, national or local level.• Field visits to 4 selected partners for evaluation meetings with implementing partners and stakeholders.
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of routine M&E data (we will be able to share existing analysis of data, and research conducted on this.)• Analysis of evaluation findings / data review / partner interviews• Consultation with CHASE Africa and implementing CBO / NGO partners re: draft findings and recommendations
Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparation of draft report• Feedback• Finalisation of the report in light of feedback

It is for applicants to propose time allocations for these components and develop a detailed Gantt chart for the assignment.

Skills and experience

Applicants are expected to have the following attributes:

1. Excellent written and verbal communication in English.
2. Strong understanding of sexual and reproductive health and rights (understanding of rights-based programming a major advantage).
3. Understanding of interconnected issues between environmental and human health in rural communities, especially those impacting on women and the impact of depleting/over-used natural resources on households, and women.
4. Strong understanding of the general context (socio-cultural, policy) and the health sector in Kenya and Uganda.
5. Proven track record of conducting similar evaluations; includes the ability to recruit, train, manage and quality assure the work of field researchers if relevant.
6. Results-based approach; strong planning and assignment management skills, and ability to set realistic deadlines and meet them.

Contact persons and decision-making

The consultant(s) will report directly to, and address any decision-making issues to, Harriet Gordon-Brown, CEO, CHASE Africa. Operational support is available from Georgia Burford, Programme and Partnership Manager, CHASE Africa.

Arrangements for field visits will be made by CHASE Africa in close communication with implementing partners.

Budget

There is a budget of £7,500 - £10,000 for this piece of work (which will include costs of travel to local partners).

How to Apply and Timing:

Proposals are invited from relevant organisations, companies or consortia of consultants. Deadlines are as follows:

- Detailed costed proposals (see below for details) to be submitted in PDF format by email to Harriet Gordon-Brown (harrietgordonbrown@chaseafrica.org.uk) by 9am UK local time on **3 July 2023**.
- Shortlisted applicants will be contacted by 7 July 2023 at the latest and a date/time for preliminary phone call or meeting will be arranged.
- We aim to conduct interviews the week of the 10th July.
- We would like the evaluation to take place in September/October 2023 if possible.
- On completion of contracts, work can proceed as planned by the successful applicant.
- Final report (Submission date to be agreed, depending on start date).

Proposals should include:

- Motivation for the assignment and statement of relevance/competence.
- Description of proposed methods and details of approaches/software to be used for data capture, storage and analysis.
- Gantt chart for the assignment, from inception through to final report and handover.
- CVs for the specific individual(s) to do the work showing qualifications, skills, experience and references.
- Detailed total budget for the assignment, with figures inclusive of all taxes. Budget to cover fee days, travel, accommodation, subsistence, and reimbursable costs. Budget to be expressed in GBP.
- Proposals for payment schedule linked to deliverables.

Any questions to clarify this TOR can be sent by email to Harriet Gordon-Brown (harrietgordonbrown@chaseafrica.org.uk)

Deliverables

- Detailed implementation plan – methods, including sampling and tools and a detailed schedule, to be reviewed and agreed by CHASE Africa before the commencement of the assignment.
- Draft evaluation report – to be submitted by for review (date to be confirmed when start date known.)
- Final evaluation report – (@30 pages excluding appendices) - a final version should be submitted for final checking and sign off.
- **Note:** all documents to be written in English (UK), submitted in MS WORD file, font 11.